(b) if so, whether a sum of Rs. 700 is charged from the passengers in the name of providing them certain facilities free of cost inside the airport;

(c) if so, whether the passengers are still made to pay additional money at the time of availling of these facilities;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and also the reasons for seepage of rain water from the roof of the Departure Hall of the said airport; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to do away with such mismanagement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) It has always been Airports Authority of India's (AAI) constant endeavour to provide good management at Indira Gandhi International Airport. AAI charges Rs. 200/- as Passengers Service Fee from Domestic and International Departing passengers for meeting the expenditure on both facilitation and security arrangements at the airports.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The seepage at times from the roof of departure hall at Terminal-II is due to the age of the building. However, repair works are carried out to rectify the faults.

(e) A number of steps are being taken for bringing in further improvements at IGI Airport, including modification in the locations of the custom counters and other facilities which would increase the arrival handling capacity from 1200 peak hour passengers to 1600 peak hour passegers. Moreover, the Government has decided to upgrade the airport infrastructure, facilities and services to world class standard through private sector participation.

Smart Card Scheme of AAI

†596. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the 'Smart Card' scheme announced by the Airports Authority of India;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether the said card has been given by the Authority to its employees; and

(c) if so, the time taken in providing these cards after the said announcement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Airports Authority of India has not announced any 'Smart Card' Scheme.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Inadequate Facilities at Airports

†597. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to irregularities, mismanagement and inadequate facilities at airports, passengers and their relatives have to face various problems;

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to non-maintenance of buildings and their deteriorated condition people have to stand in water in rainy days;

(c) if so, whether it is also a fact that despite charging extra amount from the passengers no attention is being paid towards their facilities;

(d) if so, whether Government will take steps to provide better facilities to the passengers; and

(e) if so, by when and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Passenger facilities provided at various airports are upgraded continuously keeping in view the traffic requirements. Whenever new terminals are constructed, these are all equipped with modern passenger facilities including flight display boards, conveyor belts, X-Ray baggage equipments, restaurants, snack bars, STD/PCO counters, Travellers Requisites Stalls, etc.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.